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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
OPERATIONAL POLICY
PRACTICE PRIVILEGES**

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Page 1 of 2

FOR THE FULL PRACTICE PARAMEDIC

The full-practice paramedic is defined as: A paramedic that routinely provides ALS patient care in the Milwaukee County System. An example of full-practice is the full-time municipal fire department paramedic.

- Be assigned on a regular basis to an active paramedic unit. Active paramedics should be assigned to a paramedic unit, or paramedic first response unit a minimum of 35% of regular duty days (excluding work-reduction, vacations, etc.) in the standard 27-day cycle.
- Demonstrate skill proficiency by meeting or exceeding benchmarks established by the Medical Director. Individuals with inadequate experience opportunities to maintain skill proficiency (as determined by the Medical Director) may be required to obtain additional educational experience in a manner prescribed by the Medical Director.
- While assigned to an active paramedic unit, all paramedics must rotate through all patient care assignments on a regular basis, spending an equivalent amount of time in each position. Assignment to the positions is designated by Fire Department administration and monitored by Milwaukee County EMS.

FOR THE LIMITED PRACTICE PARAMEDIC:

The limited-practice paramedic is defined as: A paramedic that does not routinely provide ALS care yet is licensed within and practices in the Milwaukee County EMS system. Examples would be EMS instructors and Bradley Center paramedics.

- Have attained at least 2 years of full-practice status or its equivalent
- Must complete 48 hours of patient care services annually for the Milwaukee County EMS system. ALS patient care is determined on a case-by-case basis with the individual's scope of practice defined by the Medical Director.

FOR THE SPECIAL RESERVE PARAMEDIC:

The special reserve paramedic is defined as: A paramedic who does not provide ALS care in the Milwaukee County EMS system but whose work contributes directly to the benefit of the system. An example of a special reserve paramedic is one who has attained a supervisory or administrative position. The Special Reserve Paramedic:

- Must have attained at least 2 years of full-practice status or its equivalent.
- May only provide ALS patient care if accompanied by a full-practice paramedic.
- Receives prior authorization from the medical director prior to providing ALS care.

FOR THE INTERN PARAMEDIC

The Intern Paramedic is defined as: A paramedic who has not previously had full practice status in the Milwaukee County EMS system. Examples would be new Milwaukee County EMS Education Center graduates and transfer paramedics, regardless of years of experience. "Transfer paramedic" is defined as any individual whose initial training did not occur at the Milwaukee County EMS Education Center.

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A paramedic will be referred to as an “Intern Paramedic” until he or she has met both of the following criteria:

- Completed 12 months with a minimum of 2400 shift work hours on a transporting MED Unit **AND**
- Achieved 50% of the 2-year skill and performance benchmarks.

The Intern Paramedic may only provide ALS patient care if accompanied by a full-practice paramedic.

FOR THE GRADUATE PARAMEDIC

A Graduate Paramedic is defined as: An individual who has successfully completed a paramedic education course, has taken the NREMT-P certification examination, and is awaiting the results of the examination.

A graduate paramedic has privileges consistent with a paramedic student. The Graduate Paramedic may perform ALS procedures when accompanied by two licensed paramedics, one of whom must have full practice privileges **AND** at least two years of experience.

INTERRUPTED OR CHANGE IN PRACTICE PRIVILEGE

Any interruption or change in work schedule that may affect a paramedic’s practice status must be reported immediately to the Program Director of Milwaukee County EMS. Examples include but are not limited to: injury, illness, family leave, retirement, or change of employer.

Paramedics who have not been active within their classification for a period of more than 90 calendar days must be re-evaluated by the Milwaukee County EMS Education Center prior to returning to patient care duties.

Paramedics who have not been active within their classification for more than 1 calendar year must successfully complete the Paramedic Refresher Course and an infield observation by a member of the Milwaukee County EMS Education staff.

If the interruption from service was due to injury or illness, the paramedic must present documentation that he or she has been medically approved to return to active duty prior to any evaluation by Milwaukee County EMS.

REINSTATEMENT OF PRACTICE PRIVILEGE

Paramedics who have not been active on a paramedic unit for a period of more than ninety (90) calendar days must be re-evaluated by the Milwaukee County EMS Education Center. The medical director will determine the individual’s status and practice privilege prior to reassignment to a paramedic unit. For individuals who have not been assigned to the paramedic unit secondary to illness or injury, the paramedic must also present documentation that he/she has been medically approved to return to active duty prior to any evaluation by Milwaukee County EMS.

Paramedics who have not been active on a paramedic unit for a period of more than one (1) calendar year must successfully complete forty (40) hours of refresher training at the Milwaukee County EMS Education Center during a regularly scheduled course and satisfy any State requirements regarding licensure prior to reassignment to a paramedic unit. For individuals who have not been assigned to the paramedic unit secondary to illness or injury, the paramedic must also present documentation that he/she has been medically approved to return to active duty prior to any evaluation by Milwaukee County EMS.

The medical director reserves the right to assign the practice privilege.